

# LEGAL COMPASS

Volume 1 • September 2017



## WORDS OF WISDOM

### TIME-TESTED ADVICE FOR EXCELLING IN LAW SCHOOL

*"Keep very organized notes throughout the year. Two weeks before your exams, re-write or type up your notes. This will refresh and reinforce the information in your memory."*

*"Be prepared to read a lot."*

*"Start a project as soon as it is assigned to you, even if it is just looking up resources or writing the introductory paragraph. That small bit of progress will make it easier to delve in later on."*

*"Don't neglect your mental and emotional wellbeing, no matter how hard you work. Make time to connect with friends, and spend some time outdoors—even if it's just walking to the library."*



## 4 TIPS FOR SUCCEEDING ON LAW SCHOOL EXAMS

Most law school exams are three-hour, open book exams, in which you will be asked to read a fact pattern and determine what the outcome of the legal dispute should be. The tips below will help you understand how to succeed on these exams.

- 1. Think first, write second:** Record your thoughts as you initially read through the fact pattern. These will help you form your arguments. After, make a list of the relevant cases and arguments you want to include. This is the foundation of your analysis.
- 2. Organize your analysis:** It is important to structure your response as clearly as possible to make your arguments effective. Look at the list you created and divide it into discrete issues, which you can use as your headings. [\[continued on page 2\]](#)



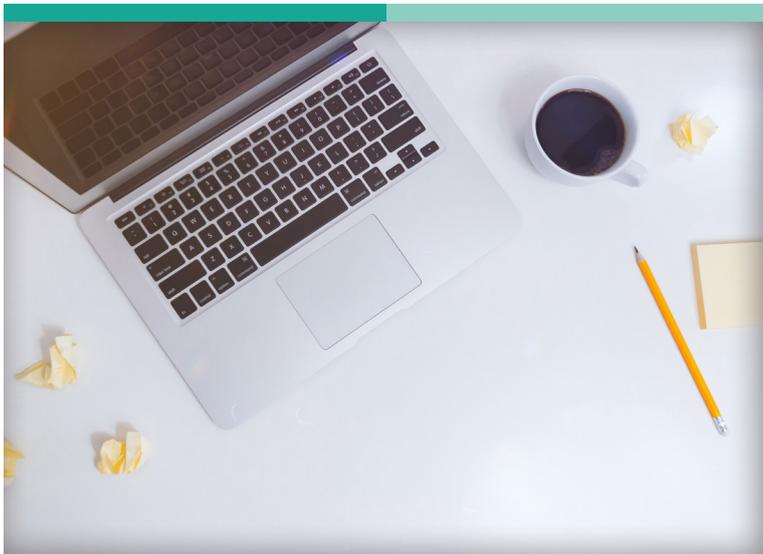
2 ONLINE RESOURCES FOR LAW STUDENTS



3 NETWORKING TIPS FOR LAW STUDENTS



4 THE STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO WRITING A CASE BRIEF



## 4 TIPS FOR SUCCEEDING ON LAW SCHOOL EXAMS

[CONTINUED FROM PG 1]

The headings should tell the reader what you intend to argue, and can be presented as statements ("A owed a duty of care to B.") or questions ("Did A owe a duty of care to B?")

**3. Argue both sides:** Don't get caught up trying to figure out what the professor thinks is the "right" answer—there isn't one. Your professor is looking for persuasive arguments. Both sides have arguments to support them, and you must present both before reaching a conclusion.

**4. Have an opinion:** On that note, you must still come to a conclusion. The exam prompt will likely ask you to give advice to a client or make a decision regarding a case. If you don't assert a conclusive opinion, you will not adequately answer the question.



## ONLINE RESOURCES FOR LAW STUDENTS

### LEGAL NEWS AND GUIDANCE

[emondexamprep.ca/topics/blog](http://emondexamprep.ca/topics/blog)

[lawstudents.ca](http://lawstudents.ca)

[lsuc.on.ca/licensingprocesslawyer](http://lsuc.on.ca/licensingprocesslawyer)

### GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

CanLII: [canlii.org/en](http://canlii.org/en)

e-Laws: [ontario.ca/laws](http://ontario.ca/laws)

Justice Department: [justice.gc.ca/eng](http://justice.gc.ca/eng)

### SOCIAL MEDIA GROUPS

Law Student Career Network: [goo.gl/YV4yCf](http://goo.gl/YV4yCf)

Ontario Law Exchange: [goo.gl/4D99JB](http://goo.gl/4D99JB)

LSSO: [facebook.com/LSSOnt](http://facebook.com/LSSOnt)

## FREE LEGAL GLOSSARY

**Bailment:** An agreement between parties that one will store the goods of the other.

**Fee Simple:** The right to exclusive possession and the right to dispose of the land for an indefinite period of time.

**Paramountcy:** A principle providing that if a law falls within the jurisdiction of both the federal and provincial governments, the federal government takes jurisdiction.

**Promissory Estoppel:** A rule whereby a person is prevented from denying the truth of a statement of fact made by him or her where another person has relied on that statement and acted accordingly.

**Standard of Care:** 1. Legal criteria against which a defendant's conduct is measured to determine whether he or she has been negligent; 2. How well, how carefully, or how thoroughly a person carried out the duty of care owed to another.



## SAVE \$\$\$ ON YOUR LAW SCHOOL CASEBOOKS THIS SEPTEMBER AT EMOND.CA

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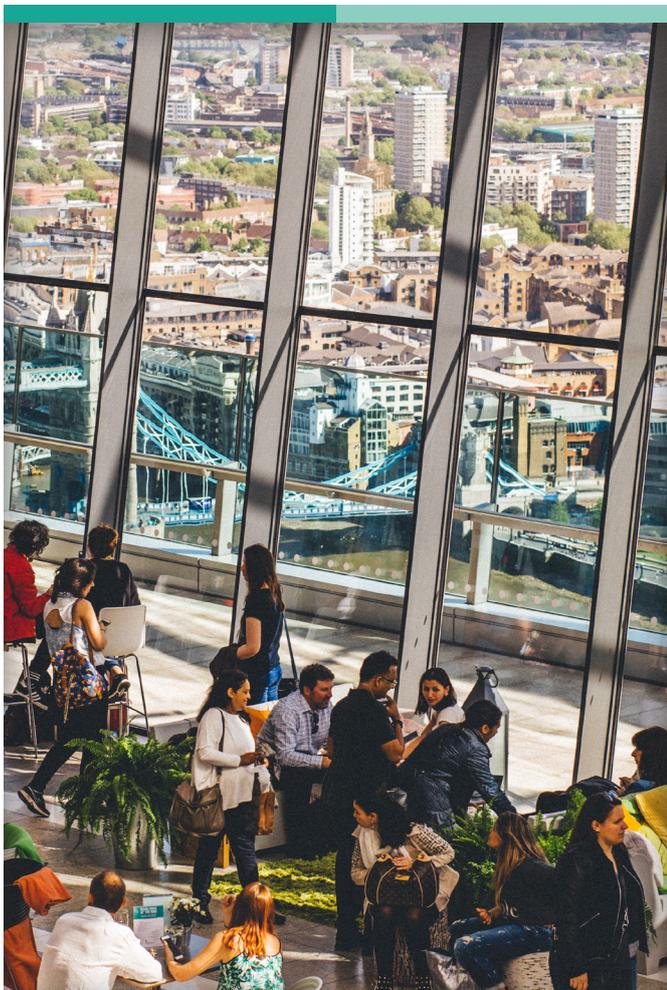
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## NETWORKING TIPS FOR LAW STUDENTS

**1. Pair up with someone:** Sometimes it is easier to socialize in a pair than on your own. Choose someone confident, who wants to talk to similar people, and work the room together. This can help to offset your nerves. There will likely be more lawyers than students, so talking in pairs and small groups will happen organically, too.

**2. Don't be afraid to enter conversations:** Since there will be more students than lawyers, learn how to tactfully step into a conversation. Wait for a lull in the conversation and then enter the conversation by politely introducing yourself.

**3. Set a goal:** Networking events can be overwhelming, especially for first-year students who may not know what area they are interested in yet. Setting a goal for yourself will make launching into a conversation easier and will ensure you get something out of the event. Your goal could be to learn about an area of law or a firm you don't know much about.

**4. Send a follow-up:** You don't need to send a follow-up to everyone you meet, but you should send a follow-up to people you had meaningful conversations with. This is how you make a true connection. You can do this by getting their business card and sending them an email the next day. Alternatively, you can look them up on their company website or on LinkedIn. Say thank you, and include a comment about what you took from the conversation. You can also include an invitation to continue the discussion at another time.

## STARTING SALARY

HOW MUCH WILL YOU EARN WHEN YOU BEGIN?



The average starting salary for a lawyer in Canada is \$65,945. Looking to maximize your earning potential? Consider a specialization in corporate law or negotiation.

Source: [www.payscale.com](http://www.payscale.com)

## POTENTIAL SALARY

HOW MUCH CAN YOU EARN IN FUTURE?



The average salary for an experienced lawyer is \$117,764, and some earn up to \$204,674. But the real reward is job satisfaction, which most lawyers rate as 5/5.

Source: [www.payscale.com](http://www.payscale.com)



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### REVIEW COURSES, PRACTICE EXAMS, AND ADVICE

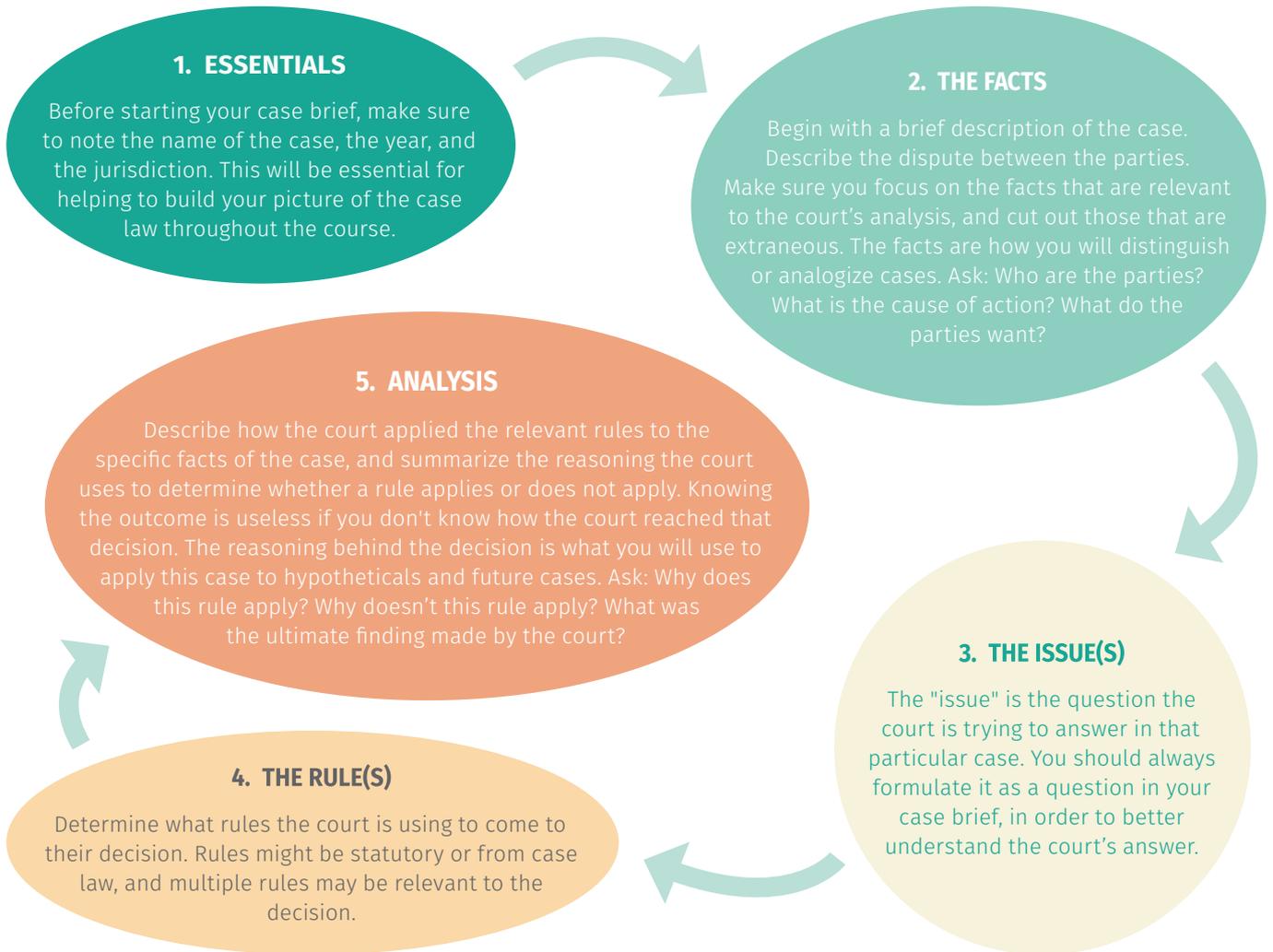
To prepare for the LSUC Barrister and Solicitor Licensing Exams, you must study over 1,600 pages of material answer challenging substantive multiple-choice questions. Emond Exam Prep offers materials and programs to help you prepare for and pass your licensing exams, including:

- **220-question practice exams** with subject performance analytics, correct answers, and detailed explanations.
- **Online and in-class exam preparation courses** with substantive lectures on the required competencies.
- **Exam preparation manual** that outlines strategies and tips to help you succeed on the licensing exam.

- 1 Essentials
- 2 Facts
- 3 Issues
- 4 Rules
- 5 Analysis

# WRITING A CASE BRIEF: STEP BY STEP

IN LAW SCHOOL, YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR READING MANY CASES FOR EACH OF YOUR CLASSES. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO REMEMBER ALL OF THE IMPORTANT DETAILS FROM EACH CASE, BUT YOU CAN CREATE CASE BRIEFS TO CAPTURE THE INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW IN A HELPFUL FORMAT FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.



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